

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13
TRSE-00 /072 W

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O R 021602Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4494
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
USELMLO

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS
SINCUSAFE FOR POLAD
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB
SUBJECT: CIETRICH STOBBE ELECTED GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN
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REF: USBERLIN 1155

1. SUMMARY: DIETRICH STOBBE (SPD) WAS ELECTED GOVERNING
MAYOR OF BERLIN BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON MAY 2.
STOBBE NOW HAS THREE WEEKS TO FORM NEW SENAT FOR APPROVAL
BY HOUSE OF REPS, BUT IS EXPECTED TO DO SO BY MAY 12.

IN INTERIM, PRESENT SENAT REMAINS IN OFFICE. END
SUMMARY.

2. AT SPECIAL SESSION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MAY 2, DIETRICH STOBBE (SPD) WAS ELECTED GOVERNING MAYOR BY 76-68 MARGIN WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS, REPLACING KLAUS SCHUETZ. BRIEF ONE-HOUR SESSION BEGAN WITH ACTING PRESIDENT SICKERT READING SCHUETZ' RESIGNATION, CDU SPEECH BY FRAKTION CHIRMAN LUMMER NOMINATING LORENZ, AND SPEECHES BY THE SPD AND FDP FRAKTION SHAIRMEN SUPPORTING STOBBE CANDIDACY. IN BRIEF SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE, STOBBE PROMISED AN ACTIVE SENAT WHICH WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE IN MEETING NEEDS OF POPULACE.

3. STOBBE'S ELECTION FOLLOWED WEEKEND DURING WHICH ANOTHER SPECIAL SESSION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEFEATED ALONG STRAIGHT PARTY LINES CDU MOTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF HOUSE (AND THEREBY FOR NEW ELECTIONS). ON MAY 1 A SPECIAL SPD PARTY DAY SUPPORTED STOBBE'S NOMINATION BY SPD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND HOUSE FRAKTION WITH STRONG VOTE OF 217 OF 235 BALLOTS CAST.

4. AT PARTY DAY BERLIN SPDC DEPUTY CHAIRMAN REIBSCHALEGER GAVE KEYNOTE SPEECH, REPORTING TO DELEGATES THAT DURING INITIAL VOTE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, APRIL 29, STATE SECRETARY WISCHNEWSKI (REPRESENTED IN BERLIN BY SPD BUSINESS MANAGER EGON BAHR) RECEIVED 13 VOTES AGAINST 11 FOR STOBBE AND EIGHT FOR SENATOR HARRY RISTOCK. SECOND AND DECIDING VOTE AFTER RISTOCK'S WITHDRAWAL SAW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIX OF HIS EIGHT SUPPORTERS VOTE FOR STOBBE THUS GIVING STOBBE A NARROW 17-15 VICTORY OVER WISCHNEWSKI. AT PARTY DAY MAY 1 STOBBE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NOT MADE DEAL WITH RISTOCK FOR LATTER'S SUPPORT.

5. STOBBE NOW HAS TWENTY-ONE DAYS IN WHICH TO PRESENT NEW SENAT (AND WE ARE INFORMED HE IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT NEW SENAT IN FOURTEEN). AT LEAST TWO POSITIONS MUST BE FILLED - STOBBE'S OWN FORMER POSITION AS SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS AND SENATOR FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (PREVIOUSLY HELD BY KURT NEUBAUER WHOSE RESIGNATION ON APRIL 28 PRECIPITATED COLLAPSE OF SCHUETZ). THERE IS SPECULATION THAT ANOTHER TWO OR THREE SENATORS WILL BE REPLACED. COALITION PARTNER FDP, HOWEVER, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL THREE FREE DEMOCRATS NOW IN SENAT ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN AT THEIR POSITIONS (FDP PARTY CHIEF LUEDER WHO IS MAYOR AND SENATOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; SCHOOLS SENATOR RASCH AND JUSTICE SENATOR BAUMANN).

6. BERLIN PRESS IN SATURATION COVERAGE OF EVENTS OVER PAST WEEKEND REACTED FAVORABLY TO CHOICE OF STOBBE WHO APPEARS TO HAVE FEW ENEMIES. MOST ARTICLES LAUDED STOBBE'S GOOD POLITICAL INSTINCTS, HIS EFFECTIVENESS AS FEDERAL AFFAIRS SENATOR, AND HIS GRASP OF THE LARGER POLITICAL FRAMEWORK IN WHICH BERLIN LIVES. STOBBE, WE SURMISE, OWES HIS NARROW MAJORITY TO NUMBER OF COLLEAGUES WHO WERE OPPOSED TO "OUTSIDE SOLUTION" OF WISCHNEWSKI THAT EGON BAHR WAS CLEARLY SENT TO BERLIN TO SELL TO THE LOCAL SPD.

7. WE ARE SENDING SEPTTEL WITH BIO UPDATE ON STOBBE AND SUGGEST THAT SUIABLE LETTER OF CONGRATUALTIONS BE SENT TO HIM FROM SECRETARY. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT A LETTER OF APPRECIATION BE SENT TO SHUETZ WHO DEPARTS A MUCH-RESPECTED AND WELL-LIKED MAN DESPITE HIS POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT THE END OF HIS TEN-YEAR STINT AS GOVERNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAYOR. DURING THAT PERIOD HE WAS OF COURSE A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES.

8. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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